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Pennsylvania Press Release

PRESS RELEASE

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PENNSYLVANIA POTATO STOCKS

HARRISBURG -- Total stocks of potatoes stored in **Pennsylvania** on May 1, 2000 were 450,000 cwt., up 320,000 cwt. from last year, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service.

Stocks are defined as the quantity (whether sold or not) remaining in storage for all purposes and uses, including seed potatoes not yet moved and shrinkage, waste, and other losses that occur after the date of each report. Sales of fall potatoes for all purposes for the past 5 years averaged 90.7 percent of the total fall production. Shrinkage, loss and home use account for the remaining 9.3 percent. Most seed for use the following year is on hand but remains as part of stocks until moved or planted.

U.S. potato stocks totaled 85.7 million cwt. on May 1, 2000, down 3 percent from last year and 8 percent below two years ago. Stocks made up 20 percent of fall potato production in the **15 storage states**, down 1 percentage point from last year. Season-to-date disappearance totaled 335 million cwt., down slightly from last year but 4 percent above two years ago. A total of 163 million cwt. of the 1999 potato crop have been processed to date. April processor usage was a record 17.3 million cwt., down 6 percent from a year ago and 2 percent below two years ago.